

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A portable device, comprising:
2 an interface to receive at least one file and a transfer count associated with
3 the file from another device; and
4 a controller to be communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller
5 to allow transfer of the file based on the associated transfer count.

1 2. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives at least one
2 file containing digital music.

1 3. The portable device of claim 2, wherein the interface receives the
2 associated transfer count embedded in the file.

1 4. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller allows a selected
2 number of transfers of the file based on the value indicated by the transfer count.

1 5. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller transfers the file
2 and decrements the associated transfer count by one in response to a successful transfer.

1 6. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives a copy of
2 the file, and wherein the file is an encrypted file.

1 7. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the portable device is a Secure
2 Digital Music Initiative compliant device.

1 8. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the interface receives the file from
2 another portable device.

1 9. The portable device of claim 1, wherein the controller to allow transfer of
2 the file comprises the controller to allow transmission of a copy of the file.

1 10. A method, comprising:
2 selecting at least one music file from a first portable device to transfer to a
3 second portable device;
4 transferring the music file to the second portable device; and
5 transmitting a preselected transfer count to the second portable device,
6 wherein the preselected transfer count is indicative of the number of times the second
7 portable device may transfer the music file to one or more devices.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the music file comprises
2 transferring an encrypted music file.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the encrypted file comprises
2 transmitting a copy of the encrypted music file to the second portable device.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the preselected transfer
2 count comprises transmitting a preselected transfer count of zero.

1 14. The method of claim 10, further comprising accessing a transfer count
2 associated with the file in the first portable device and updating the transfer count in
3 response to successfully transferring the music file to the second portable device.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein updating the transfer count comprises
2 decrementing the transfer count in the first portable device by one.

1 16. The method of claim 10, wherein transferring the music file comprises
2 transmitting a copy of the music file to the second portable device.

1 17. An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media
2 containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:
3 receive at least one music file and a transfer count associated with the
4 music file from another device, wherein the transfer count is indicative of the number of
5 times the music file may be transferred to one or more of devices; and
6 store at least one of the music file and the associated transfer count.

1 18. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2 processor to allow the music file to be transferred to the one or more devices based on the
3 transfer count.

1 19. The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2 processor to reduce the transfer count by one in response to each successful transfer of
3 the music file to the one or more devices.

1 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2 processor to transmit a preselected transfer count for the music file transferred to the one
3 or more devices, wherein the preselected transfer count indicates the number of times the
4 file may be transferred by the one or more devices.

1 21. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2 processor to transfer the preselected transfer count indicating that no further transfers by
3 the one or more devices are allowed.

1 22. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed enable the
2 processor to receive the transfer count embedded in the music file.

1 23. A portable music player, comprising:
2 an interface to communicate with a remote portable music player; and
3 a controller communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller to:
4 allow a user to select at least one music file to transfer to the
5 remote portable music player;
6 determine if transfer of the selected file is allowed;
7 transmit the selected file to the remote portable music player in
8 response to determining that the transfer is allowed; and
9 transmit an indication to the remote portable music player
10 indicating the number of times the remote portable music player may transfer the
11 transmitted file.

1 24. The portable music player of claim 23, wherein the controller reduces a
2 transfer count associated with the transmitted file.

1 25. The portable music player of claim 23, wherein the controller transmits the
2 selected file to a Secure Digital Music Initiative compliant music player.

1 26. A system comprising:
2 a host computer; and
3 a portable device communicatively coupled to the host computer, the
4 portable device to receive from the host computer at least one music file and a transfer
5 count associated with the music file, wherein the transfer count is indicative of the
6 number of times the portable device may transfer the music file.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device is a music player.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device receives the transfer
2 count indicating that the portable device may not transfer the music file to other devices.

1 29. The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device is a Secure Digital
2 Music Initiative compliant portable device.

1 30. The system of claim 26, wherein the portable device further transfers the
2 music file to another device based on determining that the transfer count is greater than
3 one.

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